

**To:** Clara Solomon, Board Liaison  
NALP Board of Directors  
**Cc:** Fred Thrasher, NALP Deputy Director  
**From:** Samantha Kasmarek, Chair, Judicial Clerkship Section  
**Date:** January 30, 2019  
**Re:** Judicial Clerkship Section Third Quarter Report

The following is a report on the activities of the Judicial Clerkship Section and its Work Groups for the third quarter.

I. **Leadership Team**

***Chair:***

Samantha Kasmarek, Syracuse University College of Law ([kasmarek@law.syr.edu](mailto:kasmarek@law.syr.edu))

***Annual Education Conference/Bulletin Article/Webinar Planning:***

Michele Hoff, Georgetown ([mh1845@georgetown.edu](mailto:mh1845@georgetown.edu)) and  
Jen Pollard, University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law  
([jpollard@law.umaryland.edu](mailto:jpollard@law.umaryland.edu))

***OSCAR:***

Marilyn Drees, Yale ([marilyn.drees@yale.edu](mailto:marilyn.drees@yale.edu))

***State Courts:***

Laura Woodson, UGA ([lwoodson@uga.edu](mailto:lwoodson@uga.edu))

***Diversity in Judicial Clerkships:***

Eric Stern, Berkeley ([ericstern@berkeley.edu](mailto:ericstern@berkeley.edu))

***Bankruptcy Court Clerkships:***

Andrea Hilton, Washington and Lee ([HiltonA@wlu.edu](mailto:HiltonA@wlu.edu))

***Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan***

Liz Peck, Cornell ([ep83@cornell.edu](mailto:ep83@cornell.edu)) and Greta Trakul, Michigan  
([gtrakul@umich.edu](mailto:gtrakul@umich.edu))

II. **Section Meeting**

The Section's third quarter call was held on Wednesday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> at 2 pm Eastern. Approximately 30 people were on the call, including two recruiters.

The Work Groups provided the following updates:

A. **OSCAR Work Group - Vice-Chair, Marilyn Drees**

Courts have found money to stay open until January 31st. Enhancements for OSCAR Ver. 8 (on existing platform) will be delayed until government shut-down gets sorted out.

There are still plans to open OSCAR to 2Ls on February 6th; the help desk will be available - but with limited coverage, so there may be some response

delays if anyone has questions/issues arise. OSCAR is in communication with judges. They plan to remind judges before January 31st that there will be a new crop of students accessing the OSCAR system. They will prompt judges to update info on their OSCAR profiles and also remind them that OSCAR is following plan, so applications from Class of 2020 will be held until June 17.

The federal judges' OSCAR Working Group had scheduled its annual meeting for late February, but the shutdown caused them to postpone it. They are currently considering alternative dates in the spring or summer. NALP's OSCAR work group will have a half-day virtual meeting on Feb. 20 with the OSCAR staff to discuss the next-generation OSCAR platform. (Note: OSCAR announced in December that the contract for the next-generation platform was awarded to Symplicity.)

NALP's postcard to judges is in the works; coordinating with Laura at OSCAR given the communications they need to get out; should hopefully go out in the next few weeks.

**B. RFP and Bulletin article submissions & updates: Vice-Chairs, Michele Hoff and Jen Pollard**

Upcoming article next month (February *Bulletin*) on communicating with employer-side members about hiring plan and timeline to help manage their coinciding summer programs.

**C. Diversity in Judicial Clerkships: Vice-Chair, Eric Stern**

Program at NALP AEC on ABF study being done appears to be moving forward.

**D. State Courts - Vice-Chair: Laura Woodson**

The *Insight and Inside Information for Select State Court Clerkships* resource has been finalized. It is posted on the Judicial Clerkship Section's NALP Connect Page under Resources.

Updates should be passed along to Laura and Sam so that updates may be made contemporaneously.

**E. Federal Law Clerk Hiring Plan - Liz Peck at Cornell and Greta Trakul at Michigan**

Some district court judges seemed confused on the new hiring plan; for example, a judge posted to OSCAR that she wanted to see more Class of 2020 applications, but didn't seem to realize that the class couldn't see that. Working with NALP member employers to see what would be most helpful - should we let them generally know the timeline or just what to expect. May wait to see for article in *Bulletin* and go from there. For now, NALP member

employers can find more information on the [NALP website](#) and [OSCAR website](#).

**F. Bankruptcy Court Clerkships - Andrea Hilton**

Judge Isicoff is out of the country until the end of January. She will connect with Sam and Andrea upon her return.

There are annual conferences for Bankruptcy Judges in both the fall and spring; the National Conference of Bankruptcy Judges event is in Washington, DC from October 30th - November 2nd. They typically do a panel discussion for law students local the DC Metro area; we anticipate judge will as us to market program and encourage students to participate; please keep dates on your radar; more information will follow as we receive it.

**III. Environmental Scanning; Questions that Arose During the Quarter**

***NALP member Employer asked questions about best practices for recruiting law clerks***

Interested in hearing more about sourcing for judicial clerks by means of holding events and recruiting them. Presentation at NALP AEC 2016 in Boston is a good starting point - [handouts one](#) [handout two](#)

***Questions regarding government shutdown -impacting hiring?***

Some were hearing from candidates that judges were trying to make decisions; asking clerks to accept before January 25th (date which funding would run out; but was subsequently extended to January 31st). Judges were saying after that they could not hire.

Others were hearing that background checks for summer interns were being held up. Discussion about who does background checks; some courts do not do them for interns; others said their spring externs (some of whom were supposed to be working for government agencies and were switching to clerkships) were getting their background checks completed during the shutdown.

**IV. Next call**

The Section's 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Call will take place on ***Wednesday, March 13, 2019 at 2 pm Eastern.***